



# Crop Progress and Condition

**USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office**  
Herman Ellison, State Statistician  
P. O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
(804) 771-2493  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

**In Cooperation with:**  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce - NOAA  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: September 08, 2015

Issue: 26-15

**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Field activities for the week included harvesting corn for silage and corn for grain. Weather conditions continue to get drier; scattered rains helped a little, but pastures, corn and hay fields are drying fast and some crops are showing signs of drought stress. Temperatures were up and precipitation amounts increased slightly this week. High temperatures were in the 90s, and lows were in the 60s.

### SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 09/06/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	20	49	31	-
Subsoil	16	42	41	1

- Represents zero.

### CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 09/06/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	6	7	25	59	3
Grapes	3	3	11	80	3
Corn	1	3	18	61	17
Cotton	-	-	25	72	3
Hay, Alfalfa	4	10	33	50	3
Hay, Other	4	20	35	38	3
Peanuts	-	-	29	66	5
Soybeans	1	10	30	53	6
Tobacco, Burley	-	1	36	54	9
Tobacco, Fire-cured	-	4	51	38	7
Tobacco, Flue-cured	3	8	35	36	18
Pasture	8	19	35	35	3
Livestock	1	7	23	56	13

-Represents zero.

### CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/06/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	52	45	35	80
Peaches harvested	90	81	88	90
Corn dented	86	79	77	81
Corn mature	55	40	55	58
Corn for grain harvested	18	5	12	22
Corn for silage harvested	60	46	57	67
Cotton setting bolls	98	96	100	99
Cotton bolls opening	37	23	32	28

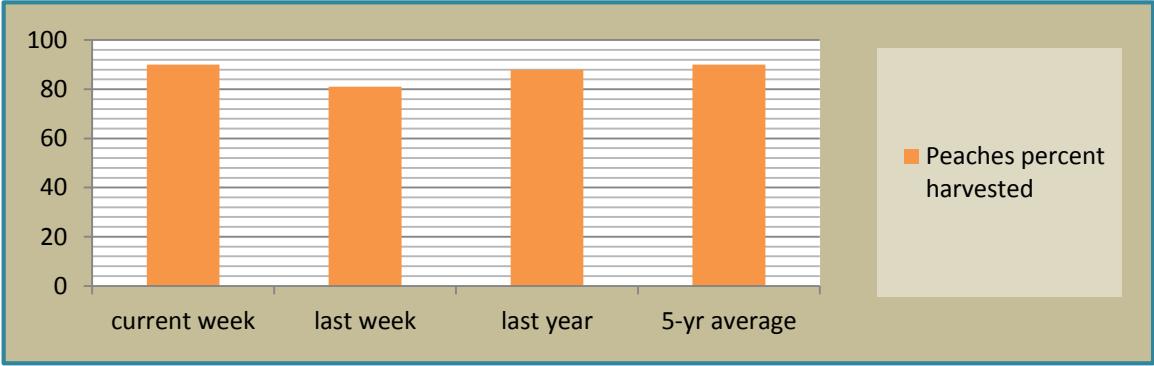
- Represents data not available.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/06/15

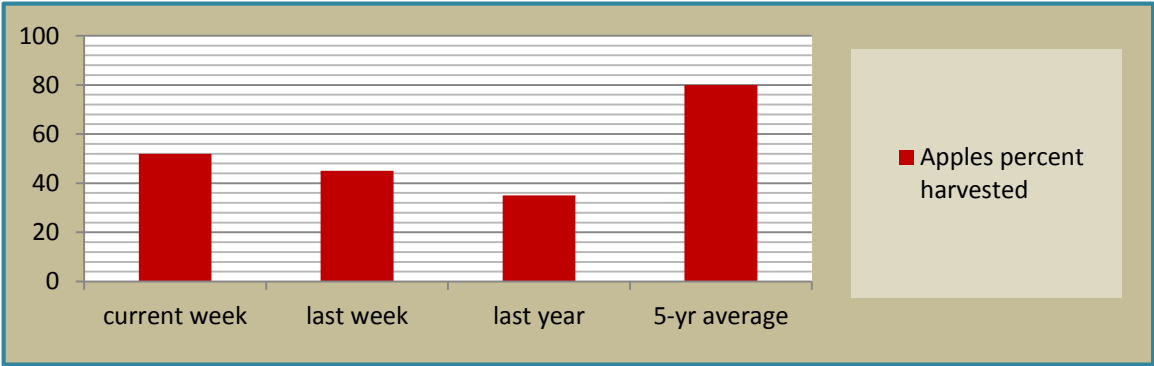
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans blooming	94	86	89	96
Soybeans setting pods	83	74	77	83
Soybeans dropping leaves	10	2	3	5
Tobacco, Flue-cured cut	55	48	48	45

- Represents data not available.

PEACHES HARVESTED for week ending 09/06/15



APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 09/06/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending September 06, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 5	Mar. 1 to Sept. 5 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	63	92	60	76	4	3303	3101	0.01	0.01	-0.49	24.76	-5.43
Norfolk	87	72	93	66	79	3	3835	3415	0.34	0.23	-0.46	33.34	0.34
Richmond	91	70	95	66	81	7	3809	3351	0.22	0.22	-0.40	32.92	2.16
Roanoke	89	66	94	64	78	6	3486	NA	0.62	0.62	-0.01	32.04	2.10
Wash/Dulles	90	67	94	64	79	7	3315	NA	0.09	0.08	-0.58	27.38	-1.44

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

We are extremely dry, late season soybeans are not going to yield much of anything. Pastures are basically done until fall moisture. Some producers are starting to feed hay.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Warm and dry conditions, except for a few isolated thunderstorms, resulted in much drier soil conditions by week's end. Corn matured rapidly with these weather conditions and virtually all the corn for silage has been harvested.

## CENTRAL

### **AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

A midweek storm brought some much needed showers to the area this week. Most corn fields are beginning to dry down, with a few dairy producers wrapping up late harvest on their silage corn last week.

### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

The lack of rain is starting to become a real issue in Caroline and King George Counties. Soybeans continue to suffer, and this week showing signs of drought stress. The largest concern is not of early beans, which will yield small seed vs. large seed, but of the later full season (wheat) beans, as this drought has caught them in bloom/pod setting. The drought is also responsible for the 5% of leaf drop I reported on the crop weather questionnaire.

### **ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)**

Dry conditions are starting to have a significant impact on fall pasture conditions.

## EASTERN

### **GLOUCESTER (David Moore)**

We remain dry in most areas. Some scattered showers fell this week. Corn harvest continues. A lot of early maturity corn has been harvested. Yields are very good to excellent, but some folks are a little disappointed. Soybeans are still suffering; spots in some fields are shutting down and dropping leaves prematurely. Some haymaking continues. Soaking rains needed.

### **LANCASTER (Trent Jones)**

Lack of precipitation is beginning to show effect on the soybean crop.

## SOUTHWESTERN

### **CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Conditions continue to be drier than normal in many parts of the county.

### **GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

This week saw the first of the tobacco and silage corn being cut. Heat and humidity continue to persist, but very little rain has been in the area. Corn is drying fast, and so are pastures and hay fields.

## SOUTHERN

### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

Some parts of the county received about 7/10 of an inch of rain this week, but it was spotty, and I'm afraid it may be too little too late. Within a two day period towards the end of this week, soybeans started dropping leaves. It's too dry. I am worried about many of the double crop beans being able to produce anything worth harvesting. Tobacco harvest was in a slow period this week, but things should start moving forward rapidly here very soon. Many of the early fields are finished and bush hogged. A lot of the cover crops are waiting on the harvests. Grain corn is still standing. We have had a lot of heavy dews. Pastures are pretty much at a standstill. It's a toss-up for some as to whether they should mow or wait for rain. Seed heads are going up instead of growth.

## SOUTHEASTERN

### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Another dry week for most of the county. Thunderstorms have been mostly isolated to small areas. Corn harvest has begun on a wider basis with good yields reported. Cotton maturity is advancing quickly with the hot and dry conditions; some very sandy soils are nearly 50% open boll. Soybean yields are in question with the prolonged dry weather in August.

### **SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Scattered showers fell over portions of the county providing some relief from dry conditions. Growers are getting combines and bins ready for corn harvest. They also continue to scout peanuts and soybeans for insects and diseases.